

**REMARKS**

In this Amendment, Claim 1, 13, 17 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 3, and Claims 2, 3 and 14 have accordingly been cancelled.

Claims 7 and 15 have been amended to be dependent from Claims 1 and 13, respectively. These amendments are supported by original Claims 2, 7, 14 and 15.

Claim 15 has also been amended to specify the layer B on which the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is laminated. That is, Claim 15 has been amended to recite said layer B --containing a thermoplastic elastomer--. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 14, lines 5 to 9.

Claims 1, 13, 17 and 18 have been amended to replace the term "over" with --on--, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 10 has been amended to replace the term "exposed" with --outer--, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 13, 17 and 18 have been amended to replace the term "indirectly" with --on the embossed or corona-discharge treated or primer pre-treated surface(s) of said layer(s) B--. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 14, 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph.

Claims 1, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 18 have also been amended to improve the grammar thereof.

No new matter has been added and thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully submitted to be proper. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1, 4-13 and 15-18 will be all the claims pending in the application.

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-12 and 17-18 have been rejected under

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It was asserted: (1) that in Claim 1, line 2; Claim 13, line 4; Claim 17, line 5; and Claim 18, line 6, the term "over" renders the structural relations between the layers vague and indefinite; (2) that in Claim 10, line 2, "exposed" should be --outer--; and (3) that in Claims 13, 17 and 18, layers A and B have no relationship to anything else in the claims, and the phrase "directly or indirectly" is not understood.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 4-12 and 17-18 as amended are not indefinite. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 13, 17 and 18 to replace the term "over" with --on--, and Claim 10 to replace the term "exposed" with --outer--, as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, Applicants have cancelled Claims 2 and 3.

Applicants have also amended Claims 13, 17 and 18 to replace the term "indirectly" with --on the embossed or corona-discharge treated or primer pre-treated surface(s) of said layer(s) B--. As defined on page 14 of the specification, the term "indirectly" means that "the surface of the base film on which the adhesive layer is to be formed is embossed or is subjected to corona discharge treatment or pre-treatment with a primer."

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamaoka et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,616,420).

Yamaoka et al was relied upon to teach a laminate film comprising at least (A) an intermediate layer and (B) two outer layers which comprise a resin composition containing a

of 20-100wt% of an amorphous polyolefin containing at least 50wt% of propylene and/or butene-1 and 80-0wt% of a crystalline polypropylene (column 1, line 63-column 2, line 4, and lines 13-14). The layer A may further contain fillers and thermoplastic elastomers (column 4, lines 20-27). The polyolefin for the layer B can be propylene resin (column 2, lines 24-28), or propylene/ethylene copolymer (column 3, lines 57-59). The thermoplastic styrene elastomer for the layer B may be thermoplastic styrene/diene elastomer (column 5, lines 28-30).

Yamaoka et al was also relied upon to disclose that the laminate film can be used as substrates for adhesive tapes (column 1, lines 49-54), and that the laminate can be embossed on one or both sides (column 8, lines 31-33).

Yamaoka et al was further relied upon to disclose that the thickness of each layer is in the range of about 2 to about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$  (column 7, lines 14-20).

It was asserted that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the thickness of each layer in the laminate film of Yamaoka et al.

It was also asserted that it is known to form an adhesive plaster from adhesive tape and to make an adhesive tape with a liquid-absorbing pad disposed in a center of a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 4-13 and 15-18 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Yamaoka et al. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 13, 17 and 18 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 3, and accordingly, cancelled Claims 2, 3

Yamaoka et al discloses a three-layer laminate film comprising (A) an intermediate layer which comprises an amorphous polyolefin containing a propylene and/or butene-1 and optionally, crystalline polypropylene, and (B) two outer layers which comprise a polyolefin or polypropylene resin and a thermoplastic styrene elastomer (abstract). Yamaoka et al further disclose that the laminate film may be used as substrates for adhesive tapes (column 1, line 49-54).

Yamaoka et al also discloses that the two outer layers in the laminate film comprise a propylene resin and a thermoplastic styrene elastomer (column 2, lines 25-27). However, Yamaoka et al does not teach or suggest a laminate film comprising two outer layers, one of which contains a thermoplastic elastomer and the other does not, as presently claimed.

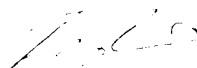
Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 19, 2003

**APPENDIX**  
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 2, 3 and 14 are canceled.**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1. (Amended) A base film for medical adhesive tape, which is obtained by laminating, ~~over one side or on~~ both sides of layer A ~~composed of~~ comprising amorphous polyolefin, layer B ~~composed of~~ comprising a polypropylene-based resin, wherein one of said layers B contains a thermoplastic elastomer and the other one of said layers B does not contain a thermoplastic elastomer.

7. (Amended) The base film for medical adhesive tape according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein said thermoplastic elastomer is an ethylene-butene copolymer and/or a styrene-butadiene copolymer.

10. (Amended) The base film for medical adhesive tape according to claim 1, wherein the ~~exposed outer~~ surface of said layer(s) B ~~has been~~ is embossed.

13. (Amended) A medical adhesive tape ~~equipped with~~ comprising a base film and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed on at least one side of ~~a said~~ a base film, wherein

said base film is obtained by laminating, ~~over one side or on~~ both sides of layer A ~~composed of~~ comprising amorphous polyolefin, layer B ~~composed of~~ comprising a polypropylene-based resin, wherein one of said layers B contains a thermoplastic elastomer and the other one of said layers B does not contain a thermoplastic elastomer and

said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer ~~has been~~ is laminated ~~over~~ on said layer(s) B directly, or ~~indirectly~~ on the embossed or corona-discharge treated or primer pre-treated surface(s) of said layer(s) B.

15. (Amended) The medical adhesive tape according to claim ~~44~~ 13, wherein said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer ~~has been~~ is laminated ~~over~~ on said layer(s) B containing a thermoplastic elastomer directly, or on the embossed or corona-discharge treated or primer pre-treated surface of said layer B containing the thermoplastic elastomer.

17. (Amended) An adhesive plaster obtained by rolling a medical adhesive tape having a base film ~~equipped with~~ and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed on at least one side of the base film, wherein

\_\_\_\_\_ said base film is obtained by laminating, ~~over one side or on~~ on both sides of layer A composed of comprising amorphous polyolefin, layer B ~~composed of comprising~~ a polypropylene-based resin, wherein one of said layers B contains a thermoplastic elastomer and the other one of said layers B does not contain a thermoplastic elastomer, and

\_\_\_\_\_ said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer ~~has been~~ is laminated ~~over~~ on said layer(s) B directly or ~~indirectly~~ on the embossed or corona-discharge treated or primer pre-treated surface(s) of said layer(s) B.

18. (Amended) A first-aid adhesive tape comprising a medical adhesive tape having a base film ~~equipped with~~ a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed on at least one side of the base film and a liquid-absorbing pad disposed in a central region of said pressure-sensitive

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\_\_\_\_\_ said base film is obtained by laminating, ~~over one side or on~~ both sides of layer A ~~composed of~~ comprising amorphous polyolefin, layer B ~~composed of~~ comprising a polypropylene-based resin, wherein one of said layers B contains a thermoplastic elastomer and the other one of said layers B does not contain a thermoplastic elastomer, and \_\_\_\_\_ said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer ~~has been~~ is laminated ~~over on~~ said layer(s) B directly or indirectly on the embossed or corona-discharge treated or primer pre-treated surface(s) of said layer(s) B.